

Subalpine Larkspur

Delphinium occidentale



Each Subalpine Larkspur plant can grow to form a large clump that can be several feet wide and high. It grows in open meadows as well as along forest edges. Although it looks very different in flower color and shape, it is also a member of the Buttercup family like the several small, yellow-flowered species that are common at Cedar Breaks.

As can be seen in the flower closeup above, Larkspur flowers have a tubular spur at the back which contains nectar. As bees or hummingbirds go after the nectar reward, pollen is deposited on them to be carried and fertilize other flowers on other plants.

Many Larkspurs contain toxic compounds. They often become very common in grazed areas where they are avoided, except by very hungry livestock.